

NEW REFLECTIONS

ON THE

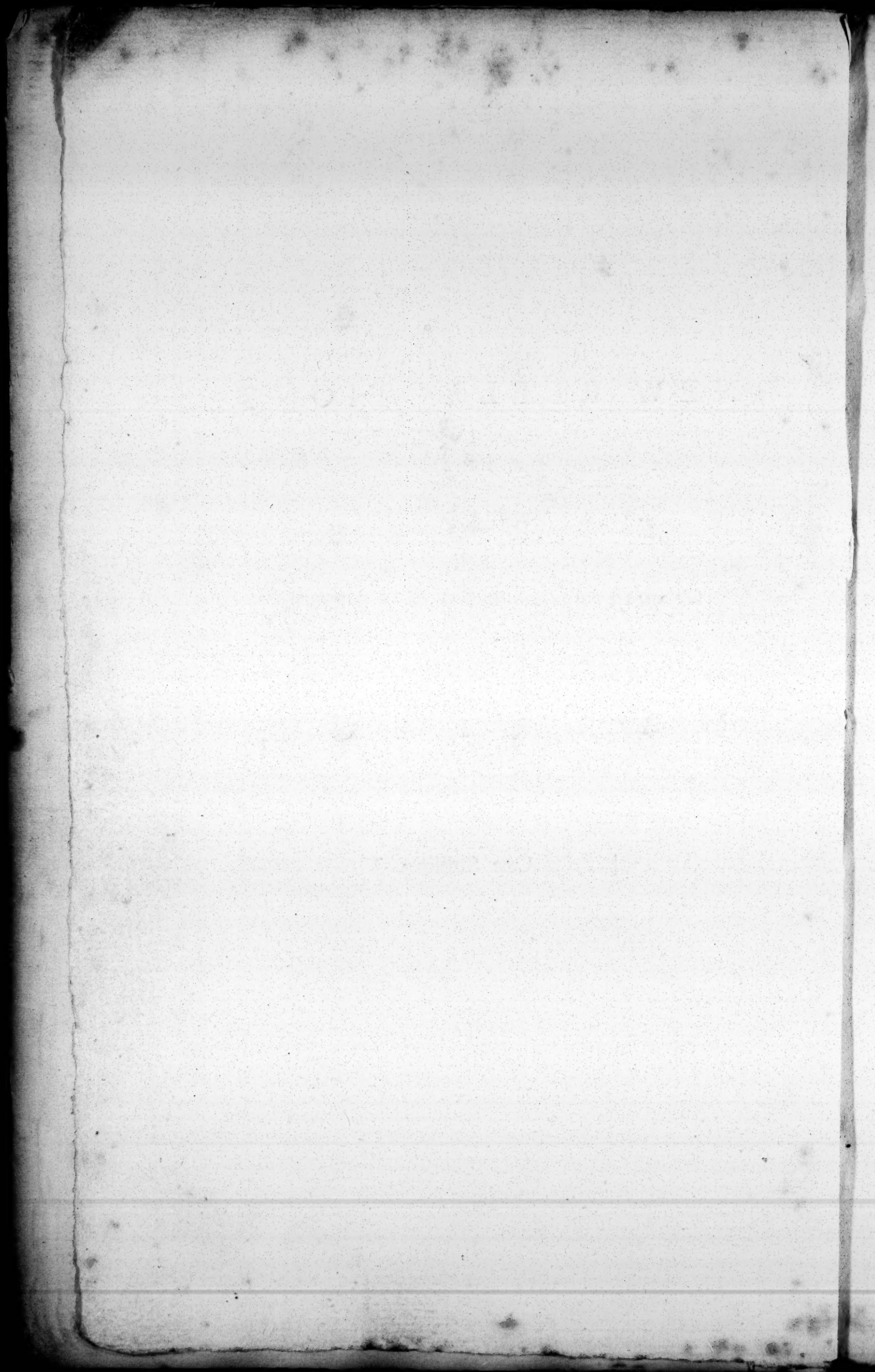
E R R O R S

COMMITTED in BOTH SEXES,

BEFORE and AFTER

M A R R I A G E.

[Price One Shilling.]



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ON THE

E R R O R S

COMMITTED in BOTH SEXES,

BEFORE and AFTER

M A R R I A G E.

By a YOUNG LADY.

L O N D O N,

Printed for J. BEW , in Pater-noster-Row.

M DCC LXXIV.



To
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
Lady Mary FOX.

MADAM,

AS I had the Honour to dedicate my first Productions to your Ladyship, two Years past, I hope, Madam, I shall be permitted the same Happiness in this Second.

I beg Leave to acquaint your Ladyship, that the Novel, intituled, "The Happy Pair, or The History of Philario and Clementina," by
a Neg-

DEDICATION.

a Neglect, has never yet been published.

I hope, Madam, my Presumption will be pardoned for offering such a Trifle to your Ladyship's Protection; though, conscious of it's Unworthiness, I flatter myself it will not be totally disapproved; as that depends more on your Ladyship's Partiality than it's own Merit: But, as it was wrote with a good Design, as well as to return your Ladyship Thanks for the Honour I have already received, I hope it will not meet with that Criticism a more deserving Work might undergo.

The Amiability of your Ladyship's Disposition is so universally known

DEDICATION.

known, that every Production must flourish under a Protection so greatly to be wished.

After begging Leave to congratulate your Ladyship and the Honourable Mr. Fox, on the Birth of a Son, and wishing your Ladyship a long Continuance of all Happiness, I request the Honour to subscribe myself, with the utmost Respect,

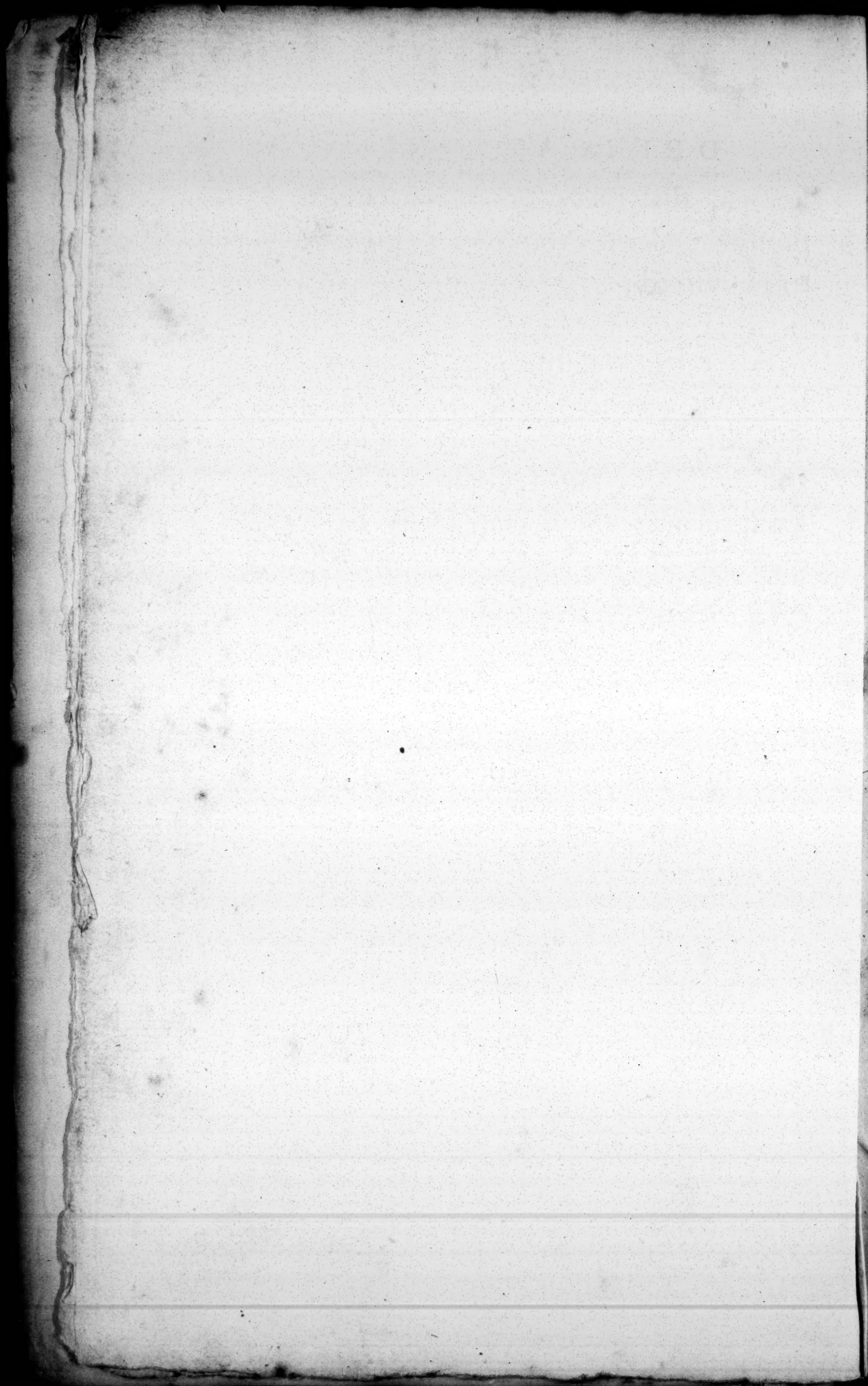
M A D A M,

Your Ladyship's most obedient,

Most devoted,

Humble Servant,

F. P.



NEW REFLECTIONS, &c.

VARIOUS have already been the Books to this Subject or Effect, and still we pursue a Track, which we are sensible we should avoid, as pernicious and injurious to our Happiness; and tho' we are daily told the ill Consequences attending Perfidy in Men and Coquetry in Women, we still take no Pains to eradicate them; it is almost to be thought they are esteemed as Virtues instead of being detested as Vices.

Most Persons are emulous of following Modes, even if contrary to their Reason; and since Love is become a Fashion, it must consequently be changeable; for as new Patterns in Dress often grow visible, so

A

every

every fickle Man sees a new Face that he fancies more lovely than the last he beheld.

The Gentlemen in this Age are most of them void of Tendernefs ; their Gallantries and Dress engross all their Thoughts : — they seldom think, unless it is on some new Amour ; perhaps marrying a Lady of great Fortune, only because she has one, without one Spark of Love for the Woman they wish to unite with. In general it is from this Origin the conjugal State is so often unhappy. Our Education is at first wrongly conducted, and from this Point arises most of the Difficulties and Disappointments we experience in our riper Years.

The Fondness and Indulgence of our Parents spoil our Tempers, and heighten our Passions. Our Parents permit, nay encourage, our Insolence, which we exhibit to our Inferiors even before them, who praise us for our Wit, instead of checking and correcting the violent Sallies into which Youth are too liable to fall. Young Gentlemen

tllemen who are Heirs to a great Estate are in most Danger; the Flattery they constantly hear inspires them with Vanity and Self-conceit; they have always some Person to initiate them into Evil, under the false Title of a Friend, to whom they think themselves greatly indebted because they have given them a Taste of Vice, which, till they have Experience to judge better, they think pleasing.

In Youth Trifles delight our Eyes and Senses, which, as we grow more mature in Years, we think insipid, and blush for our Weakness in esteeming Baubles now no longer worth our Notice; in all respects nothing is thought pleasing but what has a Taste of Luxury and Novelty: What Haste we make and how solicitous to see a new play, only because it is new, without paying the least Attention to the Plan and Sentences.

If a young Gentleman reads, his Books are seldom chosen with Judgment; he is too

A 2

often

often left to the Choice of them himself; so that he most likely spends his Time in perusing Books that only tend to render him effeminate and ridiculous. A Seneca, a Plato, or Plutarch's Lives of the Roman Generals, are too dry for the Study of fine Gentlemen, and thus it is they have no Sense of Literature, Honour, or Decorum. If they converse with their Equals, their Discourse is illiterate; and if with their Inferiors, it is with a Haughtiness and Indifference that must give Disgust to all that hear them: Thus, superior in their own Opinion to all others, and sufficiently qualified for any Character in Life, their Education is completed; they have never perhaps been contradicted in their Lives, so that if they deign to request a Favour, and are refused, it renders them almost inconsolable. When they think of Marriage, it is with Indifference; for, as a mercenary View generally predominates, if one Lady refuses their Proposal, they seek for another to accept it. If they converse with a Woman of Merit, and she catches their Attention, an Inquiry
into

into her Circumstances is made, which, if they find beneath their Expectations, they have no longer any Thoughts of making her a Wife ; but if they can make her a Mistress, it is with premeditated Art, without Remorse, they triumph in her Credulity and Dishonour, use her with Indignity, and leave her ungenerously for the first Person they think more amiable. A Man that lives with a Woman on those Terms soon grows tired of her Conversation ; the Power of a Mistress is seldom lasting : A Man is too changeable to be constant ; when he is under no Restraint, can it be supposed he will be faithful to his Mistress, when even Marriage cannot deter him from ranging ? And thus, after having laughed at Matrimony, and ridiculed the Name of Husband, he may perhaps become one, just to keep up Appearances, and in certain Expectations that the Lady he makes choice of will sooth his Caprice, treat him with all Duty and Respect, and perhaps nurse him in all the Infirmities his volatile Way of living has reduced him to : This is mostly the Hopes
when

When a decrepid Beau, that has been a man of gallantry, marries. How absurd is their Notion! They are generally treated as they deserve; for, notwithstanding their excessive Knowledge, they mostly marry an artful Woman, who makes them unhappy the Remainder of their Lives, which should be passed in endeavouring to atone for the Transactions of their Youth.

If a Gentleman marries young, he soon treats his Wife with Neglect; he is ashamed of being thought polite to a Woman that he has taken under his Protection; the Company of any other Lady is by him fancied preferable to her Conversation; so that he leaves her Days, nay perhaps months, to follow his Pleasures, and leaves her exposed to her own Revenge, and to the flattering Deceit of some Man, who, as void of Honour as himself, will triumph in his Unkindness to his Wife, and ruin their Happiness for ever.

In

In this Point the Lady suffers most; her Peace, her Reputation, is lost, and for a worthless man, who soon becomes wretched himself.

Would the Gentlemen consider the Pleasure they must (if Men of Sense) experience in the Conversation of a Woman of Honour, they would not sacrifice so many Hours to the Discourse of one of licentious Principles. If they ever reflect, can the Recollection of having passed their Time in the Company of a Courtezan create any other Ideas than what are tormenting?

They think it deviating from their Superiority to discourse with a Lady on any other Theme than the general Topic, Flattery. The Gentlemen then are to be blamed for the Vanity of the Ladies; for if they would speak on more serious Subjects, the Ladies would be more conscious they are not Goddeses, but should be rational Creatures. The Gentlemen may alledge that it would appear an Insult not to admire
what

what the Ladies take such Pains to adorn ; but what a double Pleasure must they receive, when their Minds and Persons rival which shall be most agreeable.

I am sorry the female Sex deserve a Reproach ; but the many Frailties they daily are guilty of grow too enormous to be overlooked. When they arrive at an Age that they are admired, they should be more circumspect in their Conduct and Behaviour ; they should neither be coquetish, or prudish.

A young Lady, who would wish to engage the Affections of a Man of Merit, should not sport with his Happiness by trifling with the other Sex for Diversion : It is a dangerous Amusement, and too often attended with fatal Consequences.

It is improper for an unmarried Lady to frequent Public Places ; they may suppose Dressing and going into Company may be a Means to meet with some Man who may place his Affections on them in respect to
their

their Personal Appearance; this Imagination is most likely but as a Phantom, and when they experience it tis then alone they think it so.

No Man of Sense would marry a Lady in this Age, without being perfectly acquainted with her Education and Principles; therefore if a Lady captivates in this Manner at first Sight, it may not be of long Duration. This is not always the Fault of the Gentleman; perhaps he would be more constant if the Lady would be more sincere; but she, pleased with her Conquest, never remembers she is liable to lose it; and neglects cultivating an Affection she may have set her Heart on obtaining; and no sooner fancies him in her Power than she continually endeavours to teize him by her Severity. There requires the utmost Delicacy in such an Affair, and few are capable of judging of the Medium that should be observed.

B

Another

Another Point the Ladies are often to blame in, is conversing about their Lovers to their female Acquaintance, mentioning his good Qualities and his sedulous Behaviour; all which perhaps the Lady Confidant is not insensible to, and treats him in such a Manner as estranges his Esteem for the Lady he first addressed, till by Degrees he thinks her Charms much inferior to her Friend's, and a Marriage is concluded, which renders the Lady that boasted of her Conquest miserable. This often happens; there are but few Men now whose Love is unalterable, and as few Women whose Friendship for each other can fortify their Hearts against an insinuating Creature, who is all Submission and Respect to outward Appearance, which is only the Covering for Tyranny and Diffimulation.

Was I to advise the Ladies, it would be the best Method to deny having any Lover at all. What is the Pleasure of speaking of a Man we admire, to the Pain we endure in the Recollection that we have lost him.

This

This Topic gives Room to introduce a Story by Way of Example.

Two young Ladies, who had been acquainted from their Infancy, the one named Julia, the other Lucy: They both expressed the most sincere and disinterested Friendship for each other. Julia had no Secret, but what she communicated to Lucy; nor Lucy any, but what she imparted to Julia. Nothing could disunite their Esteem; they had no Thoughts of a Superiority in their Persons; each found her Friend more amiable than herself; and they enjoyed an almost uninterrupted Tranquillity, till Mr. — paid his Addresses to Julia.

It was now Lucy, for the first Time, found herself unhappy on Julia's Account. Mr. — became acquainted with Julia at a Ball, at which Lucy was not present, being at that Time indisposed. Mr. — with great Inquiry found out where Julia lived, and waited on her Father with the most honourable Proposals.

B 2

Mr.

Mr. ——'s Character was allowed to be extremely good for a young Gentleman of liberal Fortune, therefore the Father of Julia thought himself happy he had so good an Opportunity of matching his Daughter so well; and made no Hesitation of informing Julia she was to look on Mr. —— as a Man designed for her Husband. Julia received this News with great Satisfaction; she had already entertained a great Partiality for Mr. ——; and had even confessed to Lucy how agreeable she thought him: His Visits now became more frequent, and he was scarce ever from the House, and seemed passionately fond of Julia, who took no pains to hide her favourable Opinion of him.

Lucy, who from the first Time she beheld Mr. —— could not see him without Emotion, seldom was with Julia; she found it impossible to hide the Tenderneſs ſhe entertained for him; neither could all the Reproaches her Reflections ſuggeſted on the Score of Friendſhip obliterate the Idea of Mr. —— from her Heart.

Mr.

Mr. —, who was all Gaiety, used often to visit Lucy, with a Design of persuading her to be more frequently with Julia, who much complained of her Absence. Julia, who was very fond of Lucy, and was always happy in her Company, was very sensible of the Neglect, and would have been more so, had it not been for the agreeable Mr. —, whose jocular Humour in some Measure compensated for the Loss of Lucy's Company.

We are all apt to flatter our own Ideas : Lucy misinterpreted Mr. —'s Complaisance, and fancied it was the Result of his favourable Opinion of her Merit. From the Moment she entertained these Thoughts, she no longer remembered her Friendship to Julia, and endeavoured to increase the Partiality she imagined Mr. — had for her. For this Reason she assumed a Gaiety, and became more frequent in her Visits to Julia : In this Julia thought herself happy, and no Amusement or Diversion was proposed but what Lucy was a Partaker in.

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She

She discoursed with Mr. — with an uncommon Vivacity, the more peculiar to herself than it was to Julia; he perceived it; and but few Men are sufficient Masters of that prevalent Passion Vanity, not to wish to increase all Opportunities of being esteemed amiable by the Ladies: He therefore returned the Compliments of Lucy with the greatest Gallantry, and took great Pleasure in conversing with her.

Julia was not in the least uneasy at their Conversation; she thought herself as secure in Mr. —'s Love as in Lucy's Friendship. Lucy, biaſſed by her unconquerable Affection for him, was still at a Loss in what Manner to prejudice him against Julia; and now Mr. —'s Affairs called him into the Country; it was unavoidable; he therefore, with the utmost Tenderneſs, took his Leave of Julia. Lucy found how much Julia was attached Mr. —, she therefore artfully increased her Inquietude at his Departure. "You are to blame," ſaid Lucy to her, "to grieve about ſo ſmall an Abſence"

“ fence in the Man who perhaps may be
 “ never your’s ; don’t let my Imagination
 “ affect you ; but I think he is altered in
 “ his Behaviour to you of late surprisngly.
 “ You, in my Opinion, treat him with
 “ too much Sincerity. A Man that is pos-
 “ sessed of a Heart that has so much Deli-
 “ cacy, should never be too certain ; you
 “ see he thinks himself sure of your Affec-
 “ tion, and he therefore has no more to
 “ solicit for ; you should have kept him in
 “ Suspence, and tried his Temper : He has
 “ not yet been sensible of the Pangs of
 “ Jealousy, Disappointment, nor the inex-
 “ pressible Felicity of being undeceived in
 “ finding you constant, agreeable to his
 “ most ardent Wishes. Indeed, my Julia,
 “ you are a Novice in Love, I must teach
 “ you Prudence ; at his Return you will
 “ have an Opportunity of founding his
 “ Affections : Excuse this Discourse ; I
 “ hope you are sensible it is my Friendship
 “ that persuades me to give you this Ad-
 “ vice. I don’t mean to say Mr. — is
 “ unworthy of you ; I only tell you, should
 “ he

“ he at last be unfaithful, how miserable
 “ would you find yourself.”

This Discourse greatly alarmed Julia ; she therefore determined to be more cautious for the future. Lucy, rejoiced to find how well she had succeeded with Julia, well knowing Mr. — thought a restrained Behaviour or a jealous Temper most detestable Absurdities. This was not all ; Lucy prevailed on a young Lady, with whom Julia was unacquainted, to write to Mr. — under the Title of a Lady he had promised to marry. This Letter Lucy found a Contrivance for Julia to peruse : This was insupportable to Julia ; she was resolved to reproach him, the Moment he returned, with Perfidy, and never see him more. This was greatly to Lucy's Satisfaction, tho' she opposed the Resolution, and persuaded her not to let him know she had seen the Letter, but rather to try in what Manner he would wish further to deceive her.

Julia

Julia promised Lucy to adhere to her Advice : Accordingly, when Mr. — returned, his Reception from Julia was cold and affected, while Lucy expressed her Happiness at his Return in the most free and engaging Manner.

Mr. — was surpris'd and angry at the Reception he received from Julia ; he thought it the greatest Slight she could shew his Affection ; he therefore resolv'd to seem as indifferent, and left her with Precipitancy to discourse with Lucy : she entertained him as agreeably as she could, though she perceiv'd he was uneasy at Julia's Treatment.

The next Day Mr. — asked Lucy if she could inform him the Reason of Julia's Uneasiness ; her Reply was, he must excuse her refusing to comply with his Request. This augmented his Curiosity, and he press'd her more to inform him.

C

Lucy

Lucy seemed averse, till Mr. ——— assured her, if it was her Desire the Information should be a Secret, it should ever remain inviolate with him. This seemed in some Measure to satisfy her Scruples ; but then, said she, the Knowledge will only make you unhappy, as your Affection for her is so sincere ; — Perhaps not so sincere as you may imagine, returned Mr. ———, with a Sigh. Well then, Sir, said Lucy, Julia's Melancholy proceeds from a violent Passion she has long entertained for a young Gentleman of great Merit, who she hears is actually to be married in a short Time to a young Lady a particular Friend of her's. Mr. ——— was much surpris'd at the Discovery. With what Dissimulation has she treated me, said Mr. ———, I fancied myself possess'd of her Tenderneſs, how mistaken have I been in my Conjectures !

Julia now interrupted the Conversation ; she appeared very reserved ; Mr. ——— address'd her, You are very grave, Madam, said

faid he, you are but an ill Diffembler : That is a Part, replied Julia, that I am to learn of you ; I intend to become your Pupil ; will you teach me how to difguife my Heart ? how unhappy we are that we cannot make our Hearts fubfervient to our Intereft. I underftand, Madam, faid Mr. —, your Meaning ; I will acquit you of your Promise, and transfer your Property to your Friend Lucy : Nay more, I will ufe every Argument in my Power to perfuade your Father to give you to the Man you prefer.

Julia was Thunder-ftruck at thefe Words. Mr. — left her, and went to vifit Lucy ; and with great Vivacity told her, ſhe had made him free and again had bound him. I no longer love Julia, Madam ; we are both at Liberty ; ſhe has difcharged me in Silence, after ſhe had almoſt confeſſed ſhe loved another. I have long been fenſible of your Pre-eminence, and it was only my Engagements to Julia that prevented me from owning it ſooner : I hope you will

therefore pardon me, and, for the future, model me as you please. You will also oblige Julia; she is informed of my Intentions, and I am sure will exert her Power in persuading you to accept of my most sincere Affections.

Lucy could scarce conceal her Joy at her almost unexpected Success. You Men are most insinuating Creatures, said Lucy, with a Smile, however I will not distrust you, at present I will think you all Truth and all Constancy, to divert your Chagrin till you recover your Disappointment.

Mr. —— made proper Acknowledgements for her Indulgence, and returned Home to write to the Father of Julia, with a Design of informing him he no longer would wish him to bias the Inclinations of Julia; and told him, as he made no Scruple of permitting him to pay his Addresses to Julia, he hoped he would not refuse that Honour to a Friend of his, whom Julia loved and was reciprocally beloved by. He
also

also wrote to Julia, and assured her no other Consideration but her Happiness would make him withdraw his Pretensions; and at the same Time begged Leave to wait on her for her Instructions, as he should think it a Pleasure to be capable of rendering her any Service in his Power.

Julia, on the Receipt of this Epistle, was more amazed than ever, and was resolved to reproach him openly for his Treachery. Scarce was this Determination settled, than her Father entered the Room with Mr. —'s Letter, and, in an angry Tone, commanded her to peruse that Letter, and interpret the Contents. After Julia had read it, she shewed her Letter to her Father. There is certainly some Person, Sir, said she, who endeavours to sport with our Happiness; it would give me great Pleasure to know who the Person is. I will send for Mr. —, and also for Lucy; it would be ungenerous to suspect her; but if she accepts of Mr. —'s Proposal, she has contrived this Affair for my Unhappiness.

She

She therefore sent a Card, desiring Mr. — would do her the Favour of his Company in the Afternoon. She likewise sent for Lucy. The Servant returned, Lucy was just gone a little Way out of Town. This Message almost confirmed Julia's Suspicion. It is certainly, said she, Lucy's Passion for Mr. — that makes her thus act contrary I hope to her Disposition. I would not have used her so ; but I will be cautious, and not expose her Weakness.

As soon as Mr. — came, after the usual Compliments were passed, may I, Sir, said she, beg to know the Occasion of your sending this Letter to my Father, and this to me, producing the Letters. Mr. — was surpris'd at such a Question ; but imagining she would still endeavour to conceal her Partiality for another Person, he told her, as he had always treated her with Sincerity, she might trust him with the Secret of her Heart. I am already informed, Madam, who is the happy Man you have placed your Tenderness on : I could have wished it had
been

been my Lot ; but as you found me unworthy that Honour, I don't accuse you of flattering my Expectations.

Julia was at a Loss for a Reply ; and his Proceeding charmed her ; the most difficult Point was, how to clear herself. What Reason, Sir, said she, have you to think I love any other Person ? I never made any Hesitation to confess my Esteem for you ; and believe me, if any Person has taken it in their Heads to prejudice me in your Esteem, you are imposed on : But now, I am on the Subject, and may not have another Opportunity, let me ask you, if you did not think me altered on your Return from ——. He confessed he did. Then, Sir, said she, that Letter will make the Occasion plain, shewing the Letter that Lucy had prevailed on the Lady to write,—the first Intruder on Julia's Repose. By this Mr. — thought it no other than a Contrivance of Lucy's, and communicated his Thoughts to Julia, as I assure you on my Honour, said he, no Person on Earth
ever

ever could send me such a Letter; and at the same Time believe me it is the first Time I ever had it in my Hand. All I have to ask you, Sir, answered Julia, is, that you would tell me if Lucy has accepted your Proposal of paying your Addresses to her; under the Sanction of Friendship, replied Mr. —, she has; but I hope my Julia knows me better than to suppose I have not Courage to recall my Folly, and return to where Love as well as Discretion prompt me. I was to have waited on Lucy's Father To-morrow Morning, which, if you please, shall be the Day of our Nuptials. It will spare a great Deal of Confusion to Lucy, as it will save her the Trouble of owning her Stratagem; and the only Reparation I can make for Questioning your Constancy, will be ever to treat you with the utmost Tenderness, and secure you for the future from being unhappy; and I hope my Behaviour will compensate for the Constructions I put on your Conduct.

Julia

Julia replied, there was no Occasion for Apologies, that she was perfectly reconciled, but could not consent to be married till she knew if the Happiness of her Friend depended on the Choice. Mr. — and her Father bantered her much on the Subject, and pressed her to consent, alledging, it was a very ill Compliment to Mr. —'s Merit, to marry him only on the Refusal of another. This Consideration triumphed over her weaker Thoughts, and she no longer resisted, so that the next Morning was appointed for the Wedding-Day.

In the Evening Julia received a Card from Lucy, wherein she declared herself the only Author of the Difference that had been betwixt Mr. — and Julia, for Reasons she begged to conceal; that for the future she proposed, by her Parents Permission, to live with her Relations in the Country; concluding with an Apology for her past Conduct, and wishing the Bride and Mr. — all the Tranquillity they could desire. This Letter removed all Ob-
D jections,

jections, and we must think all Parties happy.

In other Respects a Lady is much to blame, which is, in deceiving the Gentleman who addresses her, in point of Fortune; 'tis a most unpardonable Fault, and not only makes him unhappy, but entails Misery on herself. How can she expect to live peaceably her whole Life with a Man who married her Fortune, not her Person? Perhaps she may plead in Excuse, her Affection for the Gentleman she deceives, and that his mercenary Wishes tempted her to act contrary to her Sentiments. This may undoubtedly be Truth; for as there are but few Men of Sense, they in general chuse wrong; they have no Taste for essential Happiness, and only place their Thoughts on transitory Pleasure. They despise the Appellation of Wife, and think it the most ridiculous Sound imaginable. Nay, if the married Man would be tolerable, the Laughs and Documents of his fashionable Acquaintance

ance make him out of Conceit with a good Behaviour to his Wife, and render him fullen and discontented. He sighs for that Liberty which before Marriage he sighed to be rid of; and most likely he would be more wretched could he enjoy it.

Mens Dispositions and Opinions are the most absurd and unaccountable; in Courtship, the haughtier they are treated the more humble they are: their Delicacy cannot endure plain Sincerity, no; — Affectation is preferred: a Frown that kills them, or a Smile that blesses them, is the only bright Topic for their Conversation; for if once a Man finds a Woman loves him, the Chace is over, and she is no longer worth the Pursuit: she then becomes insipid, is seldom visited, her Conversation is no longer pleasing, Music no longer dwells on her Tongue, her Eyes are no longer compared to the brightest Star, her Form is no longer angelic, she is quite an indifferent Person, and the Gentleman is amazed to think he has been blind so long: he is sorry he is de-

ceived, and leaves her ; nay, what is worse, exposes her Partiality, and ridicules her Fondness ; seeks for some Lady of more Art than his forsaken Mistress, and thinks her all Charms ; marries her, and, in a very short Time, finds himself miserable in his Choice, and repents his ill Opinion of the former Lady ; but all to no Purpose, it is not to be recalled, and he must submit to his Destiny. If he is a Man of Sensibility and Honour, he will bear his Disappointment with more Fortitude than a Man of bad Principles : yet still that very Sensibility, which obliges him to behave well to his Wife, renders himself more wretched.

Though at all Times a Woman should endeavour to secure the Affections of her Husband, yet in a Case where she was not the first beloved, she should be the most circumspect : It is very little to the Reputation of a Lady to live on bad Terms with her Husband ; he may, 'tis true, deserve Reproaching ; but she should remember, that making his Faults conspicuous to the
World

World is not the proper Method to persuade him to amend.

When a Man is sensible that the World is acquainted with his Foibles, he will be no longer careful to conceal them; nay, will perhaps commit Enormities without Remorse; and then will say in Excuse, that he cannot be worse than he is thought; so that from the Moment a Woman exposes the Actions of her Husband, she renders herself unhappy. But, on the other Hand, the Husband should indulge and protect his Wife, and should give her no Reason to complain; he should consider they preferred each other to any that was proposed to them, and that it is within their own Power to be happy or dissatisfied.

In Courtship, it is common to pay the beloved Object continual Compliments, and the most extravagant Encomiums are excused, and thought the true Sentiments of the Lover's Heart: but that Man who is continually flattering a Woman, has other
Views

Views than making her acquainted with his Affection. — A Woman of Sense, though the Sex are reproached with being too fond of Flattery, will only ridicule her Lover for that Folly; and, if she esteems him, will take the Pains to assure him, she prefers Sincerity to any other Consideration; for that Woman who expects Flattery, shews very little Judgment, and exposes her Capacity; for she may be assured, those fine Things she is accustomed to hear will cease when she becomes a Wife.

As there are but few Husbands who continue that Politeness after Marriage, which, before that, they were obliged to practice, all Restraint is then thrown off, and the Lady becomes the Solicitor. This generally is the Case when the Lady was tyrannical to her Lover, or when there were other Attachments than her Person.

There are many young Persons who love without Discretion. It is true, Love and Discretion seldom unite in one Breast. The
Pleasure

Pleasure of Loving and being beloved is too exquisite to admit a Thought, if the Affection is properly placed.

Perhaps a young Man and Woman see each other and love, and are entirely dependent ; if on the Caprice of their Parents who don't approve the Connexion, they must be separated, which only increases the Esteem. Severity in these Cases is the most ineffectual Method that can be thought of : Persuasion, Precepts, &c. are more salutary ; and if they have nothing to depend on, the Attachment is more improper. A Man could not endure to see the Woman he loves reduced to Indigence, though many marry without considering in what Manner they are to maintain themselves. Few of these Marriages are happy ; a Sufficiency is a great Inducement to Tranquillity. Young Persons are too apt to be precipitate ; for, though it may be supposed many marry without Consideration, yet certainly a Marriage formed on Prudence is most likely to be happy : By this it is not meant that
Persons

Persons should be governed by mercenary Views: If one of the Parties has an independent Fortune, and loves a Person that is not in Affluence, there should be no Scruple made of an Alliance, provided the Affection is reciprocal: A Gentleman can with more Propriety marry a Woman in a dependent Situation, than a Lady can marry a Man in Indigence; because the Husband is and must ever be the superior. It is not meant that a Woman of ample Fortune may not recompence and reward a Man of Merit of inferior Circumstances, by becoming his Wife, where there is a mutual Affection, and the Person so preferred has Sensibility and Tenderneſs enough to let his Conduct and Behaviour be ſuch, as to return the Obligation he has received.

Too often when Persons are married they find out Qualifications in others, which they are blind to in themſelves.—This never fails of making a Diviſion; it is certainly very unpleaſing to a Wife, to hear her Husband lavish on the Accompliſhments of any other

other Lady, when he is so sparing to her ; But still it must give a Man that loves his Wife more Uneasiness, to be sensible she thinks any Man preferable to himself ; his Delicacy cannot endure it. Man is naturally more suspicious than Woman ; and, from his Propensity to Intrigue, may question his Lady's Innocence from her Encomiums on any Gentleman ; for though the Gentlemen may have the same Fault, they will not allow it in the Ladies. This may seem hard at first ; but if a Lady considers, she will refrain from what may create Jealousy in her Husband, and indeed set him an Example.

When Persons are married they should have no Secrets ; each should reveal their Thoughts and Actions to the other. This would prevent the Impertinence of those many Persons who make it their Study to endeavour to make a Division in Families ; and also be serviceable to themselves, by preserving a proper Decorum in their Actions.

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A Hus-

A Husband who would wish to live intirely happy should ever remain a Lover ; and a Wife who would secure the intire Affections of her Husband, should be as cautious in her Dress and Behaviour as before Marriage. How solicitous a Lady is to appear amiable to her Lover, and takes the greatest Pains to be thought more agreeable to him than any other Lady ; conceals her Temper, and endeavours to make herself appear all Perfection ; and perhaps the Day after she is married she resumes her natural Temper, with a View to govern her Husband ; and, in a little Time, grows quite careless and negligent in her Person. Disguise, either in Disposition or Dress, is unpardonable. No Woman should blush to be reasonably subservient to her Husband ; and it is a great Error for any Lady to wish her Husband to be dependent on her Caprice.

Men were formed more noble, and Women to soften and refine their Sentiments, to moderate their Passions, and make them
rational

rational. Men without Women would be little better than Savages; they are obliged to our Sex for that Politeness and Address which render them agreeable; so that the greatest Charms in Woman must be Sensibility, Virtue, Delicacy, and Tendernefs. This the female Sex has generally too great a Share of, and too often it is fatal to their Happiness, unless there is a proper Mixture of Delicacy.

It too often happens that the Gentlemen are not satisfied with the intire Esteem of one Lady, but keep a Correspondence with two, if not more; this is exceedingly blameable; they may pursue it under the Name of Gallantry, but it is far different from Sentiments of Honour. It is a most inhuman Practice. Every Female, at least there are very few who are not desirous of Admiration, and very wrongly give Encouragement that is undeserved: Infact, no Lady should believe she is beloved till she is convinced her Lover is sincere by the most assiduous Enquiry. Young Ladies are too cre-

dulous, and, in general, have too great a Share of Vanity, which prevents a necessary Cautiousness relative to the Sentiments of their Lovers. A Mistrust is not amiss, it saves the Torment of Disappointments ; for if a Lady once finds a Gentleman who pretends to her, particular to any other Lady, from that Moment let her not Regard him. If a Man shews the least Slight to a Lady before Marriage, it will be greatly augmented afterwards ; and to endure a palpable Insult from any Man, in a single Lady, discovers a Want of Sense as well as Spirit. Too often their Haughtiness proceeds from the Timidity of the Ladies they address : One of the Parties must be absolute ; therefore the Lady may undoubtedly claim that Privilege while unmarried ; as, when she becomes a Wife, she inevitably loses it.

The Generality of the Gentlemen have an Aversion to Marriage ; from whence can it arise but from the Depravity of their Taste, a Profligacy imbibed from bad Company, an unhappy Opinion that all Woman-kind

kind are subject to Frailty. Who is to be blamed for their Weakness but the Gentlemen? Were not they the first Seducers and Betrayers of female Honour? A wretched prating Pack of Creatures, not worthy to be called Men, who, from their Vanity, think themselves irresistible, and from their own bad Principles entertain such unfavourable Opinions of the female Sex; and form such Ideas of Marriage, that they think it the most detestable State imaginable. How seldom is it to be seen a young Man married that lives sociable with his Wife! How readily will he oblige or compliment any other Lady! and yet he cannot endure his Wife to permit any Gentleman to return the same Civility to her. It certainly must be confessed it is imprudent for a married Lady to be a Coquette, nay, unpardonable; but the Husband may in general thank himself for any Slight he receives from his Wife.

Women are naturally prone to desire Admiration, 'tis their Due, and they expect it;
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nay, some are so desirous of it, that they will run any Length to obtain it; therefore the Husband is greatly to blame not to give his Wife any Encomium requisite to keep up a mutual Tenderneſs: on the other Hand, the Wife ſhould make it her Study to deſerve it, and ſhould not be perverſe or ill-tempered; ſhe ſhould appear, if poſſible, always amiable in the Eyes of her Husband, always to be affable and obliging; his Humour, if bad, ſhould be no Precedent to her; ſhe ſhould rather endeavour to reclaim and amend his Temper by Softneſs than Severity; rather by ſetting an Example, than following that ſhe condemns. It is a bad Excuse when a Woman pleads her Husband's Behaviour in Behalf of her own, ſhe ſhould conſider her Husband is more perplexed with Buſineſs than herſelf; her chief Concern ſhould be to leſſon and ſooth his Anxiety, and preſerve a regular Decorum in her Family; to conduct all Things with Management and Prudence; to be an affectionate Wife, and a tender Mother, if ſhe is ſo happy as to become one.

The

The Forming the Minds and Educating her Children is a Business of the greatest Importance, and should be conducted with the utmost Niceness and Delicacy, as it is mostly from the Principles they imbibe when young that their Opinions are good or evil ; for generally it is within the Power of the Parents to make their Dispositions fullen or agreeable.

How happy may a Father think himself to behold his Children, their different Sentiments and Geniuses ; and, when perplexed with Difficulties and Disappointments, to return home to meet with Peace and Tranquillity ; to hear numberless little agreeable Ideas told by the fond Mother of her darling Children ; and to find himself Monarch of a Commonwealth governed with such Ease and Contentment. Can all the fashionable Liberty so much boasted of create such Happiness ? Those fine Gentlemen who ridicule Marriage, have they any real Pleasure ? How mistaken are their Notions, when, instead of being free, they are Slaves,
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that can call nothing their own ; they are not even Masters of themselves ; they belong to every one ; if in Misfortunes, no one to share their Sorrows ; Friendship cannot feel the Tenderneſs a Wife has for her Huſband, though it is ever ſo ſincere and diſintereſted : There are a thouſand endearing Expreſſions requiſite to aſſuage Grief, which only a fond Wife can adminiſter : Friendship therefore muſt be confeſſed inferior to Love. This is not all ; thoſe Gentlemen who are ſo paſſionately fond of Variety, don't conſider that it is within the Power of an engaging Female to ſpoil all their Philoſophy and even to fix them conſtant ; there is nothing impoſſible to a Woman. How ſimple a Man looks, when, after continually bragging of his loved Freedom and Inſenſibility, he finds himſelf laughed at, and all his fine Notions vaniſhed ; and is under a Neceſſity of making the Confeſſion, and breathing his Sighs at the Feet of a Sex that was once his Diſverſion ; ſubſcribes to all the Rules and Notions of his Miſtreſs, and is as humble as before he was inſolent.

There

There are but very few Men, if any, that are not, some Time or other in their Lives, Lovers; it is but reasonable, their Hearts cannot resist it, nor will any sensible Man scruple to own his Affection; it is rather to his Honour than Discredit.

How it appears to hear a dying old Man wishing he had married when he was young, that he might have some Person to lament his Departure; whereas he now dies unpitied. We are all desirous of Grief when our Situation requires it. However, it is to be hoped that those Detesters of Matrimony will, in a little Time, be convinced there is neither Danger or Criminality in entering into that State; and that it is more happy and sociable than all the supposed Liberty they can enjoy in living with an infamous Woman. A Wife will be discreet and careful in her Expences, Extravagance is as much to her Loss as her Husband's; their Interest is the same: Whereas continual Expences attend the supporting such

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Women

Women, whose Care is to spend as much Money as they can ; not considering the Income of the Person they live with ; as they know, if his Circumstances fail, they may live with another. Their Affection keeps pace with his Fortune ; and perhaps they ridicule the Idiot who has ruined himself to humour the Folly and Caprice of his Mistress. No Man deserves Pity in such a Situation ; he merits all he suffers, let it be ever so exquisite ; it will make him more careful for the future, as well as be an Example for others. Neither can the Women be blamed, they are in the Right to make the Gentlemen pay for Variety ; they are seduced from Virtue by a faithless Betrayer ; they are abandoned to Despair, and perhaps meet with no Person to point their Thoughts to Honour. Lost to their Parents, they have not the Confidence to solicit their Protection and Forgiveness. Friendless, unprovided for, and destitute, their Reputation and Character gone for ever : What then is their Resource but Infamy ? What Punishment ought not a Man to suffer that is guilty of such Villainy.

Villainy. Invention should be racked to meditate one equal to his Guilt. There certainly can be no Crime on Earth to be compared to Seduction. Is it a proper Return to a Woman that loves a Man, to take the first Opportunity to plunge her into Misery and Horror, to make her wretched the Remainder of her Days; to entail Unhappiness on her and her Family for ever; prevent her from becoming a happy Wife, an affectionate Mother, a sincere Friend, and a generous Benefactress to those who claim her Protection?

It is not to be supposed but some Gentlemen will ridicule, and call these fine romantic Notions; but they may depend a Time will come, that will bring to their Recollection all the Misdeeds and guilty Transactions, though perpetrated with the utmost Secrecy to their Imaginations. Perhaps their Villainy will be repaid by the Unhappiness of a Sister or a Daughter; therefore, till they arrive at Years of Discretion, let them not presume to give their Opinion.

A young Man, that never was a Husband or a Father, is incapable of judging ; therefore that insolent Levity, so common in ignorant young Men, is unpardonable.

The Conversation of two Gentlemen mostly consists of telling each other the Success of their Amours, and perhaps scandalizing the Virtue of a Lady they never had the Honour to speak to. Such is their Vanity and Presumption, that a Lady cannot look at one of these pretty irresistible Creatures but they immediately conclude she is in Love with them ; and cannot help exhibiting their Foppery, and are lavish with Oaths and Rallery on the Occasion. Would the Ladies despise, as they should, these Petit Maitres, it would infallibly cause a Reformation, as well as secure themselves from Censure and Ridicule ; but it is to be hoped these Gentlemen will become Converts, and not deserve any more Reproaches ; it is more to their own Credit and Happiness to amend than any other Persons ; there is no Scarcity of Gentlemen ; there is every Day
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to be found a sufficient Number for the Ladies to chuse out of, that are really worthy ; therefore they need not lament the Insensibility of a few, that will ever be insignificant. Each Sex should endeavour to gain the good Opinion of the other ; both should be sincere and artless ; when married they should esteem each other beyond any Thing else on Earth ; and study to deserve and preserve their Affections. A Man should have no Secrets hid from his Wife, nor a Wife any from her Husband ; they should be faithful to each other, conceal each other's Faults, and give no Opportunity to Persons to invade their Happiness. A Wife and Husband should have no Confidant or Adviser but themselves ; they should be cautious, and never, if possible, give Offence that may lessen their Tenderneſs : each should bear equal Sway in the Management of their Children ; a Diviſion betwixt Parents loſes that Authority requiſite to preſerve proper Duty and Decorum, and makes them too familiar and often diſobedient.

A Woman

A Woman when married should not neglect domestic or maternal Business for any Pleasure proposed her, nor should a Husband ever spend his Evenings from Home, unless Business or his Situation in Life requires it. A Man that is independent of the World may as well entertain his Friends at his House as at a Tavern; his Wife may then partake in the Conversation; it will put a proper Restraint on the Discourse; and if it did not improve her Mind, it would give her Husband an Opportunity of discovering her real Sentiments, by her Readiness or Unwillingness to entertain his Friends.

Evening is a Time Persons are most desirous of Company; different Employments may engage the Day, that cannot be pursued in the Evening; the Mind requires some Relaxation, and Company gives a proper Spirit to Society.

It

It is a wrong Notion that a married Pair are no Company for each other; they may make themselves the most agreeable in the World; and there are but few Men who cannot teach their Wives something for their Improvement.

Reading is an elegant Amusement, both diverting and necessary; if applied properly, they need never be at a Loss for Conversation. Let the Women be affable and obliging, Men tender and affectionate; they then need not go from Home for Society; they may find sufficient Variety from each other. Each Husband will become fond of his Wife, and each Wife prefer the Company of her Husband to all modern Refinements; each single Gentleman, with such good Precepts, will wish to marry and imitate them: each young Lady will wish to make her Lover a Husband, to their mutual Satisfaction. Marriage will be no longer looked upon as fatal to good Humour and Happiness; Inconstancy and Coquetry will
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be banished, and Tranquillity and Peace reign in its Stead.

Some good Examples will create a general Amendment; and England, instead of becoming famous for Divorces, shall be esteemed the Land of Love and Harmony.

F I N I S.



